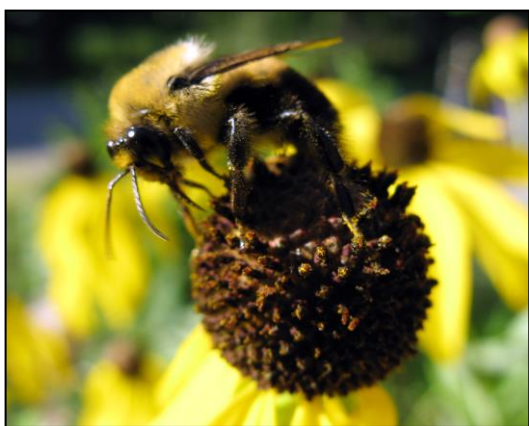


Northwoods Journal – September 2016

A Free Publication about Enjoying and Protecting Marinette County's Outdoor Life

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Astronomy Night at the Harmony Arboretum



Have you ever wanted to know more about the night sky? Anne Bartels of the Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division will give a free stargazing tour of the early fall night sky and share general astronomy information from 7:30-8:45 p.m. on Thursday, September 8, at the Harmony Arboretum, located 7 miles west of Marinette & ½ mile south of State Highway 64 on County Road E.

Learn about constellations, look for satellites and meteors, and enjoy an evening under the stars! Viewing equipment will be available but please feel free to bring your own. Dress for the weather. If raining or mostly overcast/cloudy, event will be cancelled. Hot beverages will be provided. For more information, call 715-732-7784.

Visit the Harmony Arboretum & Demonstration Gardens, a Hidden Gem of Marinette County!

By Anne Bartels, LWCD Information & Education Specialist



Located just 7 miles west of Marinette on Highway 64 and ½ mile south on County E, the Harmony Arboretum & Demonstration Gardens is a great place to visit anytime of the year! This 460-acre county farm has been developed into a conservation and horticulture education area. It holds a majestic hardwood forest, winding walking trails, a demonstration prairie and gardens, an orchard, and a Children's Learning Garden. It's always open to the public year-round and free of charge.



Marinette County owns the Harmony Arboretum property, but the community makes it a success. Many groups pitch in to continue to make it better each year:

- Northern Lights Master Gardeners Association (NLMGA)
- Marinette County UW-Extension
- Chappee Rapids Audubon Society
- Friends of Harmony Arboretum
- Boy & Girl Scout groups
- Marinette Co. Land & Water Conservation

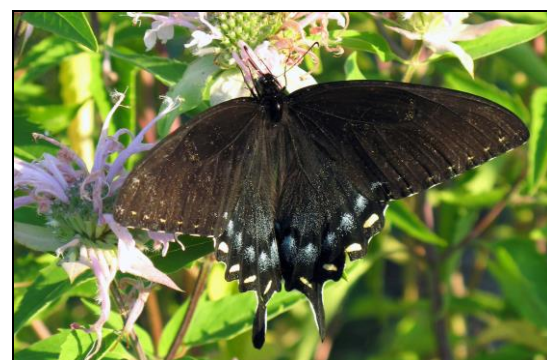
The Northern Lights Master Gardeners Association plans, produces, and cares for these community demonstration gardens. Vegetables, fruits, herbs, perennials, and annuals are all included. There is a shade house – to be rebuilt in 2017 – a greenhouse, and a newly renovated water feature, below.



Annual programs, the *Nature and Horticulture Seminar Series*, take place spring through fall. Some of this year's programs included selecting perennial flowers, growing strawberries, soil health in the garden, cooking with garlic & onions, super fruits, weed identification, art in the garden (first picture below), invasive plants, beginner vegetable gardening, and building 'insect hotels' (next two photos below).



Annual events held at the Arboretum include spring & fall plant sales; birding, wildflower & prairie hikes; a Garden Walk; astronomy nights; and Halloween Family Fun Fest (see page 5).

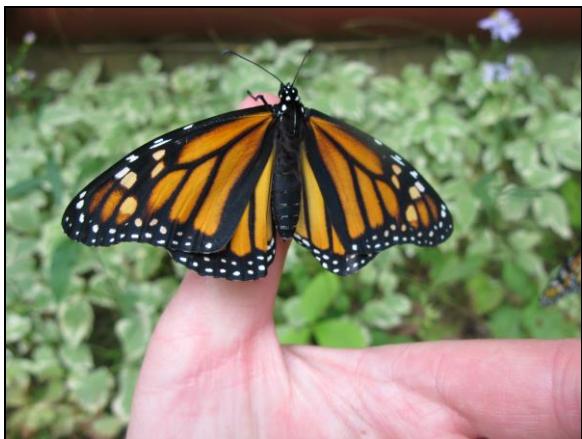


Black swallowtail butterfly on Wild Bergamot flower

For more photos and a schedule of upcoming Harmony events, see page 8. For more information, call the Marinette County UW-Extension office at 715-732-7510 or Land & Water Conservation at 715-732-7780. You can also visit online at www.marinettecounty.com (search for "Harmony Arboretum") or on Facebook at *Northern Lights Master Gardeners Volunteers (NLMGA)*

Being a Monarch 'Mom' – Raising Monarch Butterflies

By Anne Bartels, LWCD Information & Education Specialist



Last summer I decided to become a mom – to some Monarch butterflies. I have appropriate habitat at my home, plenty of native plants for larva and adults, and I wanted to try it and see if I could successfully raise some 'young-ins'. It worked, so I raised some more monarchs this summer, too.

With the challenges facing monarchs, as well as other native pollinators, I wanted to help out these iconic creatures. I can use my experiences in raising monarchs to help others understand these animals and why it is so critical that we help provide enough habitat in our area, especially since that seems to be the main issue in monarch population declines (other causes are pesticides, disease, and weather).

You can find monarch eggs on milkweeds growing wild (to right of pencil eraser in photo below), but I ordered young larva from <http://monarchwatch.org>, a non-profit organization based at the University of Kansas.

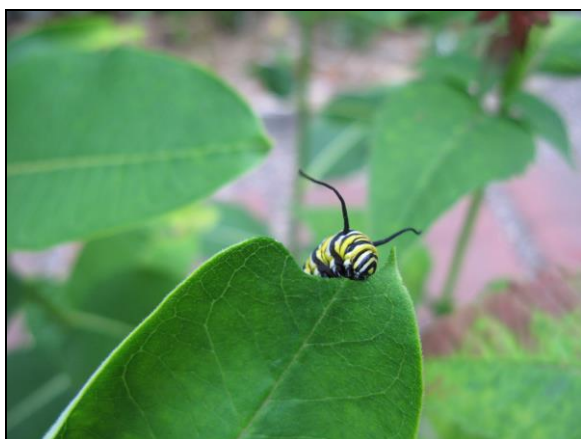


I received them in early July – they are sent in small containers of several per cup – with detailed directions. All you need is an abundant source of milkweed. I have 5 species growing at home - common, red/swamp, butterflyweed (bottom picture below), whorled, and Sullivant's. Milkweeds belong to the genus *Asclepias*, and are the only plants that monarch caterpillars eat.



I kept them in plastic containers in the house, to give them a better chance of survival when very young. You need to change out the leaves often – they eat A LOT – and they stay healthier if you keep their containers clean, as there is a potential for disease transmission. They also poop a lot – caterpillar poop is called "frass". Once they eat enough to reach the next stage of growth, or *instar*, they molt and eat some more!

Once the caterpillars reached a certain size (about 2 inches long), I released them in my gardens to finish out their larval phase and pupate.



I tried to keep track of where they went to pupate, and it was somewhat difficult as they don't always stay in one spot. I did find several as they pupated however, and observed those individuals. I used twisty ties to mark plants where I found chrysalises (see picture at right).



Some mortality is always expected. Caterpillars are susceptible to bad genetics, disease and parasites, just like any other animal. The OE parasite (*Ophryocystis elektroscirrha*) and spores can spread between larva, as well as to milkweed plants and monarch eggs. When a caterpillar consumes these spores, it becomes infected with the parasite. The development of the pupa can also be impacted, as in the photo below. An adult never emerged from this chrysalis.



However, for the monarchs that did survive, they emerged into a landscape full of nectar plants and available habitat.



Note the 'crinkled-wing' appearance of the monarch at top; it didn't develop correctly and couldn't fly at all.

If you want to be a "Monarch Mom", here are some resources you may find useful:



<http://monarchjointventure.org>



<http://www.pollinator.org> - Pollinator Partnership – info, resources, planting guides by US regions



<http://www.xerces.org> - invertebrate conservation & pollinator information



www.learner.org/north/monarch - Monarch migration maps & information



Area Farmers' & Flea Markets



Crivitz Flea & Farmers' Market: Open every Thursday from May 26 through September 1, 8am-2pm across from the Village Hall at 800 Henriette Avenue. Wide variety of vendors with handmade arts & crafts, antiques, collectables and much more! Contact Barbara Uhl at 715-854-2030 to rent space by the day or season up to first market date.

Marinette Stephenson Island Market: Open Fridays, June 3 – October 28 from 2-6pm by the Welcome Center (1680 Bridge Street). Call 715-732-4333 for more information or visit them on Facebook.



Menominee County Farm & Food Exchange: At the VFW Post 1887 in Menominee, Saturdays 9am – noon. Call 906-639-3377 or email info.mcfe@gmail.com for more information. Also find us on Facebook!

Menominee Historic Downtown Farmers Market: June 4 to October 8, Saturdays 8am-noon, and Wednesdays from 3-6pm. The Farmers' Market is located on 1st Street (across from the bandshell) in Menominee, MI. Contact Lucy Pier, 906-863-8718 for more information, or visit online at www.menomineefarmersmarket.com.



Like us on Facebook!

The Marinette County Land Information Department is now on Facebook. To find our Facebook page, go to the Marinette County website at www.marinettecounty.com, and then go into "Departments" (on the left hand side of the main page). Then click on "Land Information". There you will find a Facebook logo that you can click on and it will bring you to our page. **And before you leave our page, don't forget to "Like Us"!**

Northwoods Journal Online

Would you like to read current issues of the *Northwoods Journal* online? Go to www.marinettecounty.com and click "Northwoods Journal" in the Quick Links menu at the right of the page. We can send an e-mail reminder when each new issue is posted online.

Contact Anne Bartels, LWCD Information & Education Specialist:
abartels@marinettecounty.com or call 715-732-7784 for more information.

The Snowy Owl – a Winter Ghost

By Aleta DiRienzo, LWCD Database Specialist/Program Assistant



Winter ghosts come to Wisconsin on snow-white wings, from the Arctic tundra of Canada in search of food. In years of abundance, they raise a large clutch of owlets and do not migrate south. A Snowy Owl's favorite food is a small, hamster-like rodent called a *lemming*. In years when there are lots of lemmings, you'll find plenty of snowy owls there, too. But when lemming numbers fall, so does the Snowy Owl population - they raise fewer young and move south for the winter. Wisconsin does not have tundra, but watch in an open area for this owl, which can be mistaken for a large chunk of snow - look for the yellow eyes.



If you live in the northern plains, New York, or New England, chances are good you'll see Snowy Owls in the winter. The birds are "regulars" in those areas. Some Snowy Owls remain on their breeding grounds year-round, while others migrate in winter to southern Canada and the northern half of the contiguous United States. In the northern plains, New York, and New England, Snowy Owl sightings occur regularly in winter. Elsewhere, such as in the Pacific Northwest, the Midwest, and eastern Canada, Snowy Owls are *irruptive* - appearing in some winters but not in others.

The Snowy Owl likes treeless places and wide-open spaces - they sit on the ground to hunt, and prefer rolling terrain where they can find a vantage point to survey surrounding areas. In the wintering areas they will perch on a fence post, hay bale, building, telephone pole, grain elevator . . . anything with a good view. Looking like a patch of snow, they wait patiently for hours without moving, listening for voles and lemmings under the snow. They also will eat other rodents, rabbits, hares, squirrels, weasels, wading birds, sea birds, ducks and grebes. This owl is diurnal, mostly hunting during the day and resting at night.



Male Snowy Owls are barred with dark brown when they're young and get whiter as they get older. Females keep some dark markings throughout their lives. Although the darkest males and the palest females are nearly alike in color, the whitest birds - including the ones that played Harry Potter's Hedwig - are always males, and the most heavily barred ones are always females.



Courtship begins in midwinter and continues into March and April. Males fly around the female and after landing, will bow, fluff feathers and strut with wings spread and dragging the ground. Males also kill prey and display caches to impress the female and often feed her. Snowy Owls are territorial on their breeding areas, and sometimes their wintering areas as well. Some defend their winter territories fiercely, even engaging in combat with other Snowy Owls (a behavior not recorded on their breeding territory). Some banded owls return to the same wintering site year after year.

The nest is on the ground where the female will scratch a shallow scrape with her talons, shaping it with her body. The whole process may take several days, and the pair may use the same nest for several years. Nests may be lined with vegetation and owl feathers. Nest sites must be snow free, near good hunting and have a view of the surroundings. The female incubates while the male bring food and guards the nest. Eggs are laid in two day intervals and can be as few as 5 up to 11 in food abundance years (if the year is food-scarce the owls may not nest at all). Eggs hatch in 32-34 days at 2 day intervals, the same as the laying, leading to a large age difference within the nest. The Snowy Owl only lays a single brood - if the clutch is lost, they will not lay more.



Snowy owl eggs surrounded by a supply of lemmings; note the photographer's tripod nearby for scale.



Owlets are covered in grey down which absorbs the heat of the sun and camouflages them from predators. Their eyes open on the fifth day, and they are able to walk from the nest at two weeks of age but do not leave the nest for another couple of weeks. Until they are able to leave the nest, the male will bring food to both the female and the young. The female will break off pieces and feed them. Once they begin to leave the nest, both parents feed and tend them, eating whole prey. By the time owlets are on their own, they have eaten over 1,500 lemmings! They can fly at seven weeks of age, but even afterwards the owlets stay with their

Continued next page



Owls, continued from page 3



parents for another two to three months. They have a lot to learn about living on their own. Only the strongest, toughest, and best-prepared will survive the cold, dark Arctic winter that lies ahead. It takes about 2 to 5 years for the young to mature enough to mate, date, nest and raise their own young.



Snowy Owl Fun Facts

- 🦉 Snowy Owls live farther north than any other kind of owl in North America!
- 🦉 A dense coat of feathers keeps a Snowy Owl warm during frigid winters. Even the owl's toes and claws are thickly feathered.
- 🦉 Most owls sleep during the day and are active at night. But not the Snowy Owl. They are out and about during the day, especially at dawn and dusk.
- 🦉 A Snowy Owl spends much of the day silently perched on a high lookout, keeping an eye--and ear--out for prey. When it spots a meal, it swoops down, making a short, low flight, and nabs it with its sharp talons.



- 🦉 Snowy Owls often swallow their prey whole in one big, gulp.
- 🦉 They will attack any predators, including wolves that threaten its ground nest.
- 🦉 Snowy Owls have lots of names: 'Ghost Owls', 'Tundra Ghosts', 'Arctic Owls', and 'Great White Owls'.

- 🦉 During hot weather, Snowy Owls stay cool by panting and spreading out their wings.
- 🦉 This owl has a wingspan of 4 to 5 feet.
- 🦉 It can be found in cave paintings in Europe.



- 🦉 Unlike most owls, Snowy Owls are diurnal, extremely so. They'll hunt at all hours during the continuous daylight of an Arctic summer. And they may eat more than 1,600 lemmings in a single year.
- 🦉 Young may disperse remarkably far from their birthplace. From a single nest on Victoria Island in the Canadian Arctic, one young bird went to Hudson Bay, one to southeastern Ontario, and one to the far eastern Russian coast.
- 🦉 Thick feathers for insulation from Arctic cold make Snowy Owls North America's heaviest owl, typically weighing about 4 pounds - one pound heavier than a Great Horned Owl and twice the weight of a Great Gray Owl (North America's tallest owl).
- 🦉 John James Audubon once saw a Snowy Owl lying at the edge of an ice hole, where it waited for fish and caught them using its feet.



Information sources for this article:

- Cornell Lab of Ornithology - www.allaboutbirds.org
- The National Audubon Society www.audubon.org
- The Owl Pages - www.owlpages.com
- National Geographic - www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/snowy-owl/
- The National Wildlife Federation - www.nwf.org
- *Wild About Wisconsin Birds* by Adele Porter



Wisconsin Birding Links



- ✓ <http://wsobirds.org/atlas> - Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas
- ✓ <http://ebird.org/content/wi> - E-bird Wisconsin
- ✓ <http://www.wisconsinbirds.org> - Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative
- ✓ <http://wsobirds.org> - Wisconsin Society for Ornithology
- ✓ <http://www.wisconsinbirds.org/trail/news.htm> - Great Wisconsin Birding & Nature Trail
- ✓ <http://wibirdathon.org> - Wisconsin Bird-a-thon

eBird



Other Birding Links

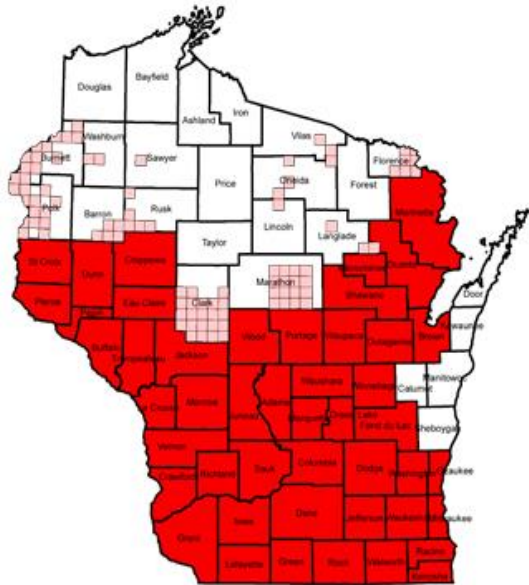
- ✓ <http://www.audubon.org> - National Audubon Society
- ✓ <http://www.birds.cornell.edu> - Cornell Lab of Ornithology – general bird information
- ✓ <https://www.allaboutbirds.org> – Cornell Lab of Ornithology – bird ID & research
- ✓ <http://feederwatch.org> - Project Feeder-watch
- ✓ <http://www.flyingwild.org> - Bird education curriculum & activities
- ✓ <http://wglbbo.org> - Western Great Lakes Bird & Bat Observatory



Oak Wilt Spreading in 2016

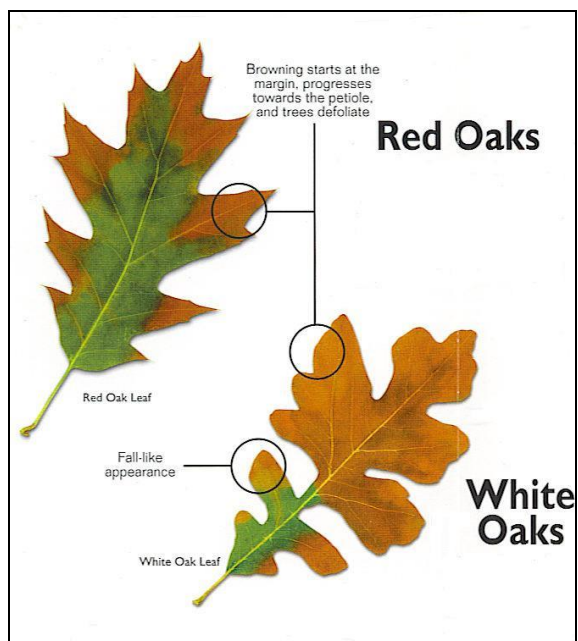
Scott Reuss, Crops/Soils/Horticulture UW-Extension Agent

The deadly disease **oak wilt** has been in our region for well over a decade, but has shown up in many new areas over the course of the last year. This summer in particular it was causing oak mortality in neighborhoods that had not dealt with the disease in the past.



Legend
 Townships confirmed with oak wilt
 generally infested counties

What is oak wilt? It is a fungal disease of oaks caused by the pathogen, *Ceratocystis fagacearum*. It is a very close relative of the fungus deadly to elm trees, causing Dutch Elm Disease. The fungus affects all oak trees, but is particularly deadly to the red oak family, including our two predominant oak species, Northern Red and Northern Pin. The fungal hyphae grow within the xylem vessels of the tree, clogging them and eventually stopping enough water flow so the tree dies. Oak wilt is certainly not the only cause of oak dieback or mortality, so let's review how to diagnose this disease. It is critical to know that you have oak wilt, as managing its spread is critical to saving other oaks in the area.



Symptoms of oak wilt

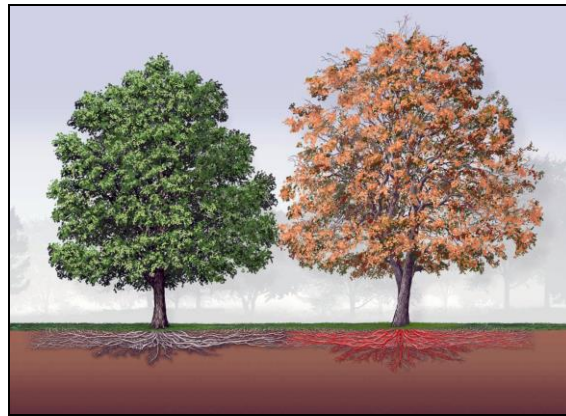
First, the tree dies very quickly, and usually completely. Dieback of individual branches can be caused by many different maladies, including insects, mammal damage, maturity, physical issues, and other things. Complete tree death in the course of a couple weeks is not very common, and oak wilt is one of the only reasons for that to occur in an oak tree.

Second is leaf color change and leaf drop, assuming it is during the growing season. **Leaves turn a grayish-green, tan, or sometimes brown and then fall off, giving the appearance of mid-autumn in early spring or mid-summer.** Again, this is very noticeable due to the rapid drop of a very large percentage of the leaves. If you start seeing these types of symptoms, you can contact

tree professionals, or send in samples to the *Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic* for oak wilt testing. Make sure you know you are dealing with oak wilt before you start doing any active management.

Third are the symptoms caused within the wood itself. These symptoms do not always show up and are difficult to see unless you cut the tree down (not a recommended practice for symptom checking, by the way!). The plugging of xylem vessels will cause dark discoloration within the working xylem (the inch or so of wood just inside the bark) and sometimes orange or brownish discoloration of the tissue between the bark and wood of twigs and small branches.

Lastly - and the one we want to avoid if possible - is that the disease spreads to neighboring oak trees through grafted root systems. Intraspecific root grafting is normal and root systems of oak trees are very large, so trees can be a fair ways apart and still have interacting roots. The fungus can move from one root system into another, thus causing infection of the new tree. This causes a circular pattern of tree mortality radiating out from the originally infected tree. *The root spread pathway is the reason that correct diagnosis and spread management is so critical to preventing this disease from killing large blocks of oak trees.*



Root to root transmission is the most damaging way of disease spread, but new infections usually get started via insect transmission of spores produced on dead trees to oak trees that have some type of wound. Spore production usually only occurs in fall or spring when the right combination of temperatures and wood moisture are present. The fungus produces a hyphal 'mat' between the wood and bark of recently dead trees, which gets large enough to crack the bark.

At the same time, the hyphae produce chemicals that attract beetles (mostly picnic and oak bark beetles) which pick up the spores and give them a free ride to non-infected oak trees that have fresh wounds. This is the reason it is recommended to not do any pruning on oaks between April 1 and October 15, other than to clean up storm damage.



How can we prevent or manage it?

The only valid prevention method is to minimize wounds, cuts, or any type of damage on oak trees while the ground is not frozen. If you must do

Continued on page 7

5th Annual Halloween Family Fun Fest at Harmony Arboretum

Saturday, October 15, 2:00-5:00 p.m.



Visit the Children's Learning Garden at the Harmony Arboretum for a 'spooktacularly' good time! Crafts, games, storytelling, pumpkin decorating, refreshments, a costume parade and more for the whole family! **The event is free, but non-perishable food item donations are encouraged.**



Above – visitors explore the elements in the Children's Garden; below – sack races!



Above – puppet show for the whole family; below, crafts and refreshments in the pavilion



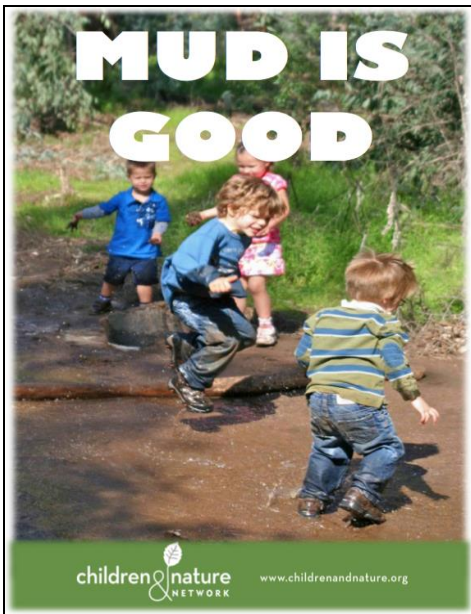
For questions or to volunteer for this event, please call the UW-Extension office at 715-732-7510, or email

gthompson@marinettecounty.com



MUD IS GOOD! Ten Easy Ways to Connect Your Family to the Joy of Nature

By Richard Louv, <http://richardlouv.com>



Short on Vitamin “N”? Here’s a brief list of nature activities to help you connect your kids, and yourself, to the health and cognitive benefits of nature time. For a more complete collection of 100 actions, for families, schools, and communities see the book *Last Child in the Woods* (by Richard Louv) from which the following suggestions are drawn.

1. **Invite native flora and fauna into your life.** Maintain a birdbath. Replace part of your lawn with native plants. Build a bat house. For backyard suggestions, plus links to information about attracting wildlife to apartments and townhouses, see the National Audubon Society’s ‘Invitation to a Healthy Yard’. Make your yard a National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Certified Wildlife Habitat.



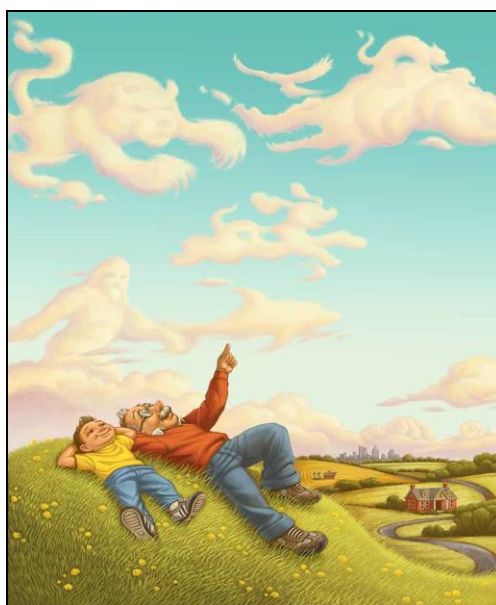
2. **Revive old traditions.** Collect lightning bugs at dusk, release them at dawn. Make a leaf collection. Keep a terrarium or aquarium. Go ‘crawdadding’ — tie a piece of liver or bacon to a string, drop it into a creek or pond, wait until a crawdad tugs. Put the garden hose to good use: make a mud hole. (Your kids will sleep well later.)
3. **Help your child discover a hidden universe.** Find a scrap board and place it on bare dirt. Come back in a day or two, carefully lift the board (watch for unfriendly critters), and see how many species have found shelter there. Identify these creatures with the help of a field guide. Return to this universe once a month, lift the board and discover who’s new.



4. **Encourage your kids to go camping in the backyard.** Buy them a tent or help them make a canvas tepee, and leave it up all summer. Join the NWF’s ‘Great American Backyard Campout’.
5. **Take a hike.** With younger children, choose easier, shorter routes and prepare to stop often. Or be a stroller explorer. “If you have an infant or toddler, consider organizing a neighborhood stroller group that meets for weekly nature walks,” suggests the National Audubon Society. The American Hiking Society offers good tips on how to hike with teenagers, like involving your teen in planning hikes and preparing yourselves physically for hikes. In urban neighborhoods, put on daypacks and go on a mile hike to look for nature. You’ll find it, even if it’s in the cracks of a sidewalk.



6. **Be a cloudspotter or build a backyard weather station.** No special shoes or drive to the soccer field is required for “clouding.” A young person just needs a view of the sky (even if it’s from a bedroom window) and a guidebook. Cirrostratus, cumulonimbus, or lenticularis, shaped like flying saucers, “come to remind us that the clouds are Nature’s poetry, spoken in a whisper in the rarefied air between crest and crag,” writes Gavin Pretor-Pinney in his wonderful book *The Cloudspotter’s Guide*. To build a backyard weather station, read *The Kid’s Book of Weather Forecasting*, by Mark Breen, Kathleen Friestad, and Michael Kline.



7. **Collect stones.** Even the youngest children love gathering rocks, shells, and fossils. To polish stones, use an inexpensive lapidary machine—a rock tumbler. See *Rock and Fossil Hunter*, by Ben Morgan.



8. **Encourage your kids to build a tree house, fort, or hut.** You can provide the raw materials, including sticks, boards, blankets, boxes, ropes, and nails, but it’s best if kids are the architects and builders. The older the kids, the more complex the construction can be. For understanding and inspiration, read *Children’s Special Places*, by David Sobel. *Treehouses and Playhouses You Can Build*, by David and Jeanie Stiles, describes how to erect sturdy structures, from simple platforms to multistory or multi-tree houses connected by rope bridges.
9. **Plant a garden.** If your children are little, choose seeds large enough for them to handle and that mature quickly, including vegetables. Whether teenagers or toddlers, young gardeners can help feed the family, and if your community has a farmers’ market, encourage them to sell their extra produce. Alternatively, share it with the neighbors or donate it to a food bank. If you live in an urban neighborhood, create a high-rise garden. A landing, deck, terrace, or flat roof typically can accommodate several large pots, and even trees can thrive in containers if given proper care.



10. **Invent your own nature game.** One mother’s suggestion: “We help our kids pay attention during longer hikes by playing ‘find ten critters’—mammals, birds, insects, reptiles, snails, other creatures. Finding a critter can also mean discovering footprints, mole holes, and other signs that an animal has passed by or lives there.”

About the Author:

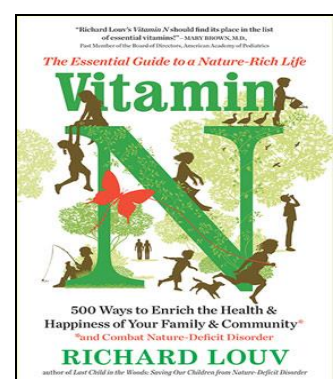
Richard Louv is a journalist and author of nine books, including:

- *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder*
- *The Nature Principle: Reconnecting with Life in a Virtual Age*
- *The Essential Guide to a Nature-Rich Life: 500 Ways to Enrich Your Family’s Health & Happiness*

He is co-founder and Chairman Emeritus of the Children & Nature Network, an organization helping build the international movement to connect people and communities to the natural world. With artist Robert Bateman, he serves as honorary co-chair of Canada’s Child in Nature Alliance.

More resources & information:

- ✓ <http://www.childrenandnature.org>
- ✓ <http://childnature.ca>
- ✓ <https://www.natureworkseverywhere.org>
- ✓ <http://www.audubon.org>
- ✓ <http://www.nwf.org/Kids.aspx>
- ✓ <http://www.nwf.org/Great-American-Campout.aspx>
- ✓ <https://americanhiking.org>



Oak Wilt continued, from page 5

any pruning to clean up damage, this is the one case where using pruning wound sealant is a good practice, as you need to minimize the opportunity for oak wilt spores to gain access to the pruning wound.

Managing oak wilt once it's in a forest or a neighborhood is not simple, but is critical to stopping the spread of the disease through the entire stand. As discussed, the root system grafting is how it spreads from tree to tree - usually at least two rings of trees per year out from the previous year's diseased trees. The only way to stop this root transfer is to kill the roots - either mechanically or chemically (below).



In neighborhoods, chemical kill may be the best route, as trenching around septic systems, underground wires, pipelines, and other impediments is usually not able to be complete. In forested areas or less densely housed areas, trenching is usually the preferred method, but it needs to be done correctly. This requires a trencher or vibratory plow (below) to achieve the proper depth; otherwise some roots may be missed.



There are many sources of great information and identification assistance about oak wilt on the web, including the WI DNR and UW-Extension. One fairly complete source is *Oak Wilt Management: What are the Options?*, a UW-Extension publication, found at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Assets/pdfs/G3590.pdf>. This publication goes through how to set up a root pruning route, as well as all the other management options. You can also request a paper copy through any UW-Extension office. Locally, you can contact Marinette County UW-Extension at 715-732-7510 for backyard tree issues and assistance, or the closest WI DNR Forester for forest management assistance.

For more information, visit:

- <http://hort.uwex.edu/articles/oak-wilt/> - UW-Extension
- <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/foresthealth/oakwilt.htm> - Wisconsin DNR
- http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/ow/states/wi/ow_prevent.shtm - US Forest Service
- <http://treedoctor.msu.edu/oakwilt/> - Michigan State University

**Top Ten Outdoor Activities for Fall**

Jaime McLeod, www.farmersalmanac.com



Summer is over, and in many places the air is turning colder. As the weather changes take advantage of what the fall season has to offer. Even if you don't live in a place that sees a lot colorful leaves, there are fun family-friendly ways to get outdoors this fall:

Go apple picking. Sure, most of us can get apples year-round from the grocery store, but there's nothing quite like orchard fresh apples, picked straight from the tree during harvest season. That crunchy, tangy, sweet apple flavor is at its peak during this time of year. Many commercial orchards will let you pick your own. It's not only fun, it's also a great way to show kids where their food comes from. Get extras for canning applesauce, or making pies. When you're done, warm up with a delicious mulled cider.

Go on a nature hike. Bring along a field guide to identify different kinds of trees. Look for wildlife collecting food for winter. Explain to kids how animals are starting to fatten up and grow thick, protective winter coats. Watch for migrating birds.

Collect fall leaves. Press them into books or preserve them in glycerin (recipe below*). Paste them onto handmade paper to create greeting cards, or glue them between two pieces of wax paper to make an attractive sun catcher. Go lightly on the glue, or substitute crayon shavings to add color; use a warm iron to melt the shavings and hold the paper together.

Visit the pumpkin patch. Don't buy your Halloween pumpkin from the grocery store. Go straight to the source. Kids will love wandering around the patch to pick out the perfect pumpkin. Choose a couple of big ones for jack-o-lanterns, and grab a few smaller ones for painting or general household decorations. Smaller pumpkins make great additions to fall centerpieces. Roast the seeds in your oven with a sprinkling of tasty spices, and grab a few to make pumpkin pies.

Visit a corn maze. Many farms earn extra income for the winter by turning their cornfields into large mazes. Test your directional sense, and get some fresh air in the process. Corn mazes are fun for all ages.

Stuff a scarecrow. Dig out an old shirt and overalls, and stuff it with leaves until firm. Add a pumpkin head (from your trip to the pumpkin patch) and you've got a great fall decoration.

Fly a kite. The gusty, brisk air makes autumn a great time for flying kites. Buy one from the store, or make your own from two long sticks, strong paper, and string.

Take a hayride. Many farms offer hayrides during the fall. This is a great way to kick back and enjoy nature with smaller kids who may not be up for a long walk.



Have a bonfire. Invite some friends over for a backyard bonfire. The chill in the air makes fall the perfect time to sit together by the warmth of a blazing fire with a nice warm mug of cocoa or cider. Be sure to get any necessary permits from your town first.

• **Make a leaf pile and jump in!**

Glycerin recipe:* Bring a mixture of two parts water to one part glycerin to a boil in a saucepan, and pour the solution into a heat-safe container. Drop in the leaves, and gently submerge them with a wooden spoon. Place the container in a cool, dark place for up to seven days. Remove the leaves when you begin to notice a slight change in their coloring, and blot them dry with a paper towel.

Autumn Fire Prevention

As September ushers in the start of a new school year, Mother Nature begins her process of settling down for the winter. Leaves turn colors and fall from trees; plants and grasses go dormant, leaving only crispy brown remnants of their green summer glory. **And, as the temperatures and leaves drop, the risk of wildfires rises.**

Wildfires occur any time of the year when the ground is not snow covered. The air temperature can be below freezing or well above 80. This wide range of conditions - combined with campfires and the burning of leaves, brush, and even trash - increase the opportunities for fires to escape and burn natural resources and personal property.

In Marinette County, the main causes of wildfires during fall are trees and limbs falling on power lines, campfires, lightning, logging or farm equipment, burn barrels, leaf and brush burning and ash disposal. Taking precautions any time you use fire outdoors is key to preventing wildfires and paying a hefty suppression bill should you start one.



If you use a woodstove or fireplace for heating your home, empty ashes into a metal container with a tight fitting lid or dump ashes onto bare soil then drown the ash with water and stir until you're sure no hot embers remain. The same goes for campfires, burn barrels and burned leaf and brush piles - before you leave the area, drown the ashes, stir, and keep adding water until all smoke is gone.

Keep aware of fire danger year-round by bookmarking the DNR's fire Web page: dnr.wi.gov (keyword 'fire'). For those of you with smartphones, the state map of fire danger is now mobile-friendly.

Wisconsin has a long history of destructive wildfires. Oct. 8 will be the 145th anniversary of the Peshtigo Fire, considered to be our nation's deadliest fire. The Peshtigo Fire burned more than a million acres of northeastern Wisconsin and upper Michigan, destroyed 12 communities, and took an estimated 1,200 to 2,400 lives. For more information about "Fire-wise" methods or resources, email Jolene.ackerman@wi.gov or call 608-267-7677.

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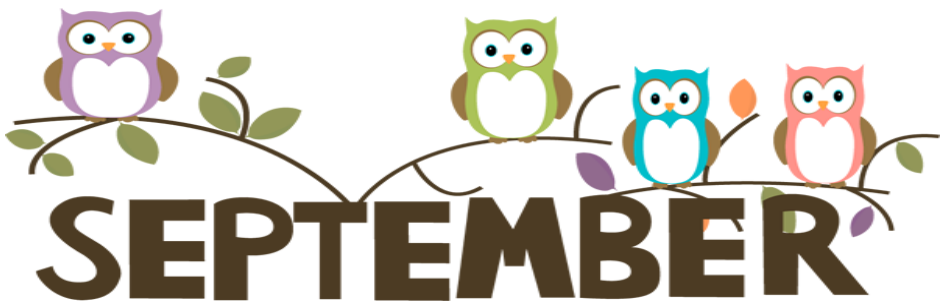
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Please send comments to:
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Area Events Calendar



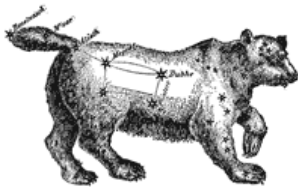
- May - Sept.** **Area Museums Open.** Marinette & Menominee County Historical Museums, Peshtigo Fire Museum, Amberg Historical Complex, Busville Doll Museum (Crivitz), Land of Oz Museum (Wausaukee) & West Shore Fishing Museum (M-35 north of Menominee, MI). Visit <http://therealnorth.com/index.php/2014-10-06-18-45-29/museums> or call the Marinette/Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce at (715) 735-6681.
- May-Sept.** **Crivitz Flea & Farmer's Market.** Open every Thursday from May 26, 2016 through September 1, 2016, 8am-2pm across from the St. Mary's Catholic Church at 800 Henriette Avenue. Wide variety of vendors with handmade arts & crafts, antiques, collectables and much more! Contact Barbara Uhl at 715-854-2030.
- June-Sept.** **Marinette Market.** Open Friday, June through the end of September from 2pm to 6pm at Stephenson Island. Call the Welcome Center at 715-732-4333 for more information.
- June-Sept.** **Forgotten Fire Winery Summer Concert Series.** Join the fun every Saturday in June, July and September for the outdoor concerts. Music starts at Noon and ends at 4 pm. No carry-ins please. Visit www.forgottenfirewinery.com for a full listing of artists performing during the 2016 season. In Peshtigo. **Summer Concert kick off on June 4 from 10am to 5pm.**
- June-Sept.** **Falling Waters Winery Summer Concert Series.** Join the fun every Friday in June, July, September from 5 to 8:30pm for live music at the winery. No carry-ins please. Visit www.fallingwaterswinery.com for a full listing of artist performing during the 2016 season. In Crivitz on Dyer Street.
- September 4** **Ice Cream Social at West Shore Fishing Museum.** 12-4pm. Held at the West Shore Fishing Museum from noon to 4 p.m. Community picnic with brats and dogs, homemade pies, ice cream, keg root beer, live music, kids' games, raffle. Explore three museum buildings, gift shop, five commercial fishing boats, nature trails, and gardens and grounds. Located 15 miles north of Menominee on M-35. Enter the museum grounds through Bailey Park.
- September 10** **19th Annual Karen Van Hefty Caring Hearts Walk.** 8:30am at the Bay Area Medical Center, 3100 Shore Drive (located in back parking lot near the Receiving Entrance off University Drive). Registration - \$5.00.; clearly marked routes - 1/2, 1, 2, and 4 miles. Enjoy a healthy breakfast after the walk and a t-shirt with registration. The Caring Hearts Walk is a celebration of health, sponsored by Bay Area Medical Center and Aurora Bay Area Medical Group. Anyone can participate. Bring your spouse, kids, friends, family, and your dog (leashed please). For a registration form, visit <https://www.bamc.org/> and for information call 715-735-4200.
- September 10** **Country Fling.** 1pm at Parkway Inn, N9906 Parkway Road in Crivitz. Food, beverages and booyah with music by Donna and the Beelers and Rock n' Randy. For more information call Ronald at 715-757-3451.
- September 17** **Oktoberfest in Crivitz.** Crivitz Community Veteran's Park, 510 Louisa Street. 12:00 noon to 12:00 midnight. Pumpkin decorating contests, bouncy houses, face painting, Fraulein's Beer Stein Race, yodeling contest, sauerkraut eating contest. Check out www.facebook.com/OktoberfestCrivitz. All proceeds benefit the Crivitz Fire Department.
- September 17** **Trout Unlimited** – Join the Marinette County TU Chapter for a stream improvement day, 9am -noon on the North Branch of Beaver Creek at 21st Road. We will be working on a fishing platform at Holley's Hole, brushing the stream, and making the area more fishable. Lunch will be provided. Contact: Doug Erdmann at 715-735-7407 for more information.
- September 23** **Movie in the Park.** 7:30 to 10:00 pm. Badger Park. The movie showing is *E.T.* Bring your own blanket or chair. The admission is free. Concessions will be available for purchase at the park. For more information please call 715-582-0327.
- September 24** **Peshtigo Historical Days.** Fire tower walk/run at 8am with registration from 6:30-7:45am. Parade starts at 10:30am. All main events at Badger Park – no admission charged. Activities include: horseshoe tournament, live music from 11:30am to 9:30pm, craft booths, food, balloon jumping equipment and games all day with fireworks at dusk.
- October 1** **Wausaukee Fall Festival.** 8th Annual Wausaukee Fall Festival will host over 100 crafters lining the village from North of Jackson Street to Evergreen Plaza on east sidewalk of Highway 141. Food, beverage, crafters, horse drawn wagon rides, live music and the event will be held rain or shine. 9am to 3pm. For more information treasurer@villageofwausaukee.com or contact Sara at 715-856-5341.

Harmony Arboretum Fall Schedule of Events



Located seven miles west of Marinette off of Highway 64, then ½ mile south on County E. All programs are free unless otherwise stated. For more information, call UW-Extension at 715-732-7510 or Land & Water Conservation at 715-732-7780.

September 8 - Astronomy at the Arboretum, 7:30 - 8:45 pm
Introduction to stars, constellations, star lore, and other space-related topics - includes a stargazing tour. Dress for the weather, hot beverages will be provided; if rain or mostly overcast, event will be cancelled.



September 10 - Plant Sale / Extending the Garden Season, 9:00am - noon
Support the work done at Harmony Arboretum by purchasing plants from the Northern Lights Master Gardener Volunteers and learn how to extend the growing season for your vegetables, fruits and flowers.



October 15 - Halloween Family Fun Fest, 2:00 - 5:00 pm
A family oriented event for kids! Hands-on nature crafts, games, farm animal learning & petting area, with many more activities. **See sidebar on page 5 for more information!**

November 21 - Astronomy at the Arboretum, 5:45 - 7:00 pm
Introduction to stars, constellations, star lore, and other space-related topics - includes a stargazing tour. Dress for the weather, hot beverages will be provided; if rain or mostly overcast, event will be cancelled.



The sensory garden (foreground), hedge maze and 'Chipmunk's Tunnel' with mural (background) in the Children's Learning Garden at Harmony Arboretum. Harmony Arboretum is open year-round and is free to the public.



Above: going on a bird hike through the Harmony Hardwoods in early June; below, visitors ready for the prairie hike in mid-August



Using natural materials to make solar prints during the 'Art in the Garden' event

